



EQUITY



EXPANDED LEARNING



INSTRUCTION



STUDENT WELL-BEING



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



TALENT



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Phase Two: Analyze and Plan (Part 2)

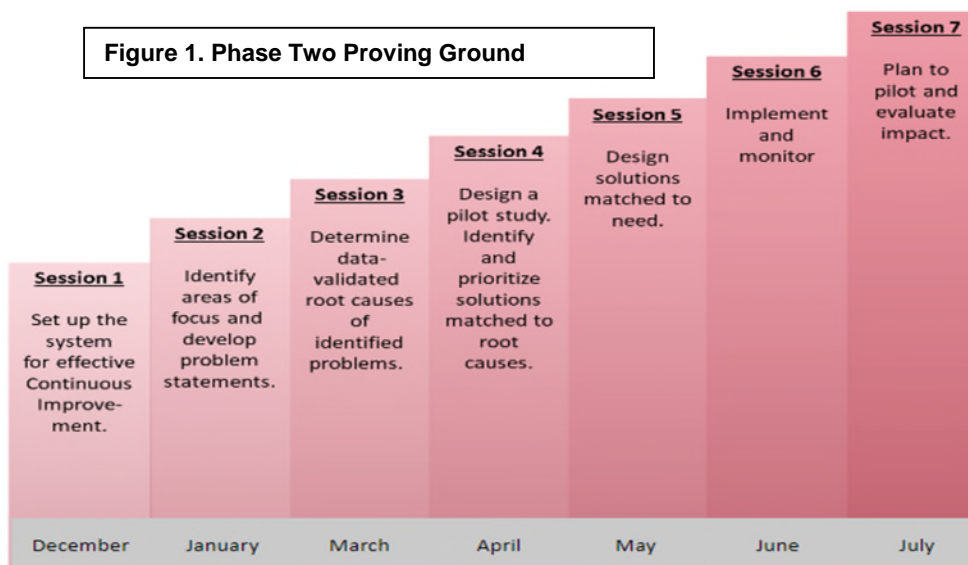
The District Support Program (DSP) aims to provide nine identified school districts with targeted support to build a durable infrastructure for improvement, sustainability, and strategic investment of resources to meet the needs of students disproportionately impacted by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. By the close of August 2022, **Phase Two: Analyze and Plan** was completed. During this phase, each district submitted their DSP grant application to outline how they planned to spend the additional ESSER dollars they were granted through the DSP program. Additionally, DSP teams continued their work with Proving Ground to create a pilot focused on increasing student achievement in their district.

District-level Professional Development and Continuous Improvement

From December of 2021 to the summer of 2022, all the DSP teams engaged in seven workshops focused on continuous improvement facilitated by Proving Ground. The sessions were designed to engage participants in the process of identifying the largest challenges in their districts. Once the challenges were identified, district teams engaged in a process of prioritizing needs, determining root causes, selecting a research-based initiative, and then designing a pilot to test out the initiative during this school year.

During the 2022/23 school year, districts will collect data to determine the impact of their pilot and use this information to drive future planning and decision-making. This cyclical process of improvement will serve to inform how each district plans and allocates their funds from now until the fall of 2024.

Figure 1. Phase Two Proving Ground



DSP Grant Application

In the fall of 2021, DSP Districts signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) and committed to allocating funds based on DSP priorities, engaging stakeholders in making budget decisions, communicating progress of their DSP work to their communities, and engaging in the improvement process. RIDE's Office of School and District Improvement (OSDI) developed tools, resources, and the DSP grant application designed to both support districts and hold them accountable to the expectations of the program.



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DSP Fellow Updates

The DSP Fellows supported their districts as thought partners throughout phase two and provided a wide spectrum of supports. These supports included, but were not limited to:

- Reviewing DSP Grant and ESSER Applications
- Connecting districts to outside resources to meet identified needs
- Delivering a quarterly newsletter to serve as a communication which districts could utilize to inform their communities of the work they were engaging in with RIDE.
- Creating a quarterly memo to inform both stakeholders and the public as to the progress made in the program
- Developing tools (i.e., slide decks, surveys, etc.) for engaging and including stakeholder voice in the budgeting process, prioritizing impactful initiatives, and presenting updates to the community on the progress of the DSP work
- Designing a protocol to allow LEAs to center their investment decisions around equity and sustainability

Prioritizing Equity, Sustainability, and Continuous Improvement in DSP Applications

As a result of their work with Proving Ground, each district developed a research-based initiative focusing on one of their priorities. District initiatives included an extended-day program focused on multi-language learners, a co-teaching model with a focus on supporting special education students in mathematics, and a comparison of two online mathematics interventions for students in need of additional support.

Figure 2. Percent of Allocated Funds per DSP Priority

Equity was a top priority in the allocation of funds and reflects a commitment to supporting the most underserved populations. DSP fellows met with each district to review their grant applications for equity, sustainability, and item prioritization. Of the \$43 million of DSP funding, approximately \$33 million had been allocated by the end of Phase II.

RIDE encouraged DSP Districts to reserve a portion of their funding in order to assess the efficacy of their initial investments and make adjustments to their programs in the second year. This reflects a new approach to grant allocation and supports the idea that LEAs can learn and improve when given time and resources.

